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Range extension for Swamp flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* in Tanzania

The Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* is a locally common bird of papyrus swamps and some riverine habitats. It has a wide distribution from northwest Africa, through central Africa to East Africa, south through west Tanzania into northern Zambia (Britton 1980, Urban *et al.* 1997). In Tanzania it is well known from the Lake Victoria basin and presumed to be a local breeder around Lake Victoria and in appropriate habitat around Lake Sagara. It is known from Gombe and Mahale National Parks on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika (Britton 1980, Tanzania Bird Atlas www.tanzaniabirdatlas.com). It may be widespread and frequent in the Lake Tanganyika basin where scarcity of records could be explained by low observer coverage.

In 2005, as part of the Tanzania National Waterbird count, we surveyed Lake Kitangiri (04°07'S, 34°32'E), a small shallow lake of approximately 12 000 ha (Baker & Baker 2002). This lake is situated in the Wembere drainage system west of the Mbulu highlands, about 240 km southeast of Mwanza. On the afternoon of 15 January we visited an extensive system of swamp and marsh on the east side of the lake, dominated by tall *Typha* and *Cyperus*. Along a channel bordered on one side by *Typha* and on the other by a field of aquatic grass (*Diplachne fusca*) we observed a single Swamp Flycatcher perched on a broken *Typha* reed. Its brown upperparts and white belly and throat separated by a brown breast band confirmed its identification, these characteristics according most closely with the race *infulata*. The bird swooped twice to forage from the water surface, returning to its perch in typical flycatcher fashion.

This observation extends the range of Swamp Flycatcher about 85 km south-eastwards from previous sightings, including a recent breeding

record at Mwadui Dam, Shinyanga Region (S. Swift, 1998, in Tanzania Bird Atlas). Together with the Mwadui dam record it confirms that the range is not restricted in Tanzania to the Great Lakes Basin but extends southward, presumably through connecting drainage systems. One might speculate that the Manonga River, a perennial tributary of the Sibiti River and a major source of Lake Kitangiri, might function as a corridor for dispersal to the Kitangire area. It would be of interest to search for this species along the Manonga and Sibiti rivers.

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Two new East African birds: Black-collared Eremomela and Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-weaver

The presences of Black-collared Eremomela *Eremomela atricollis* (Sylviidae) and Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus* (Ploceidae) in Tanzania are reported here apparently for the first time. Both are endemic birds of the miombo (*Brachystegia*-*Julbernardia*) woodland belt of south-central Africa, having been previously recorded only from Angola, southern Congo and northern Zambia (Hall & Moreau 1970, Van Perlo 1995). The following observations indicate that Tanzanian birds likewise appear to be confined to miombo woodland. Both records have been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee.

Black-collared Eremomela

Location

A single bird was found in a mixed bird party, and a party of three birds found foraging on their own, seen only a few minutes apart from each other on 1 February 2002, in Sumbawanga District, Rukwa Region at or near 08° 19.73'S, 31° 15.94'E. The habitat was miombo woodland in hilly upland country, at an